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Review Article

A REVIEW ARTICLE ON *HINGUVADIAGADA* IN *VRICHIKA VISHA*

Monika M[1]*, Prasanth SR[2]

*[1]MD scholar, [2]Associate Professor, Department of Agadatantra, Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.

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ABSTRACT

Agadatantra, a specialized branch of Ayurveda, focuses on the symptoms and management of poisons. Poisons are mainly classified into *Sthavara* and *Jangama*. *Vrichika visha*, a type of *Keetavisha* under *Jangama visha*, is known for its neurotoxic effects. The *Ashtanga Hridaya Uttarasthana* describes *Hinguvadi Agada* in the *Keedaloothadi Visha Pratishedha Adhyaya* as an effective formulation for managing *Vrichika Visha*. This simple herbomineral preparation includes *Hingu*, *Haratala*, and *Matulunga* and is administered in the form of *Lepa* and *Anjana*. Classical Ayurveda texts classify scorpions into three types based on the potency of their venom: *Manda*, *Madya*, and *Mahavisha*. While *Lepa* is effective for the local management of all three types of *Vrichikadamsa*, the *Gutika-anjana* form addresses systemic toxicity associated with *Madya* and *Mahavisha* types. The selection of ingredients in *Hinguvadi Agada*, especially *Hingu* and *Matulunga*, focuses on managing pain- a predominant symptom in scorpion stings. Acharya identified it as the best remedy for scorpion envenomation among the various available treatments due to its multidimensional pharmacological action.

This article aims to explore the ingredients, preparation method, and probable pharmacological mechanisms of *Hinguvadi Agada* in neutralizing scorpion venom. Additionally, its possible applicability in managing other neurotoxic envenomations, such as cobra and krait bites, is discussed, highlighting its potential as a versatile antidotal yoga in Ayurvedic toxicology.

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda, the ancient Indian system of medicine, is mainly divided into eight specialized branches. One of these, *Agadatantra*, focuses on the study of poisons (*Visha*), including their symptoms and treatments. According to *Charaka*, poisons are categorized into two types- *Sthavara* (plant origin) and *Jangama* (animal origin)[1]. Among animal poisons, *Vrichika damsa* (scorpion sting) is classified under *Keedavisha*. In Ayurvedic texts, *Vrichika* is commonly associated with scorpions.

Nearly 2.5 billion people worldwide are at risk of scorpion stings, with more than 1.2 million cases reported annually, resulting in at least 3,250 deaths globally.

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In India, two venomous species-*Mesobuthus tamulus* (Indian red scorpion) and *Palamnaeus swammerdami* (black scorpion) are found. Among these, *M. tamulus* is considered the most lethal and is widely distributed across the Indian subcontinent [2].

In the context of *Vrichika visha*, the *Acharyas* have outlined various treatment methods to neutralize and manage the effects of such poisons. One such remedy, *Hinguvadi Agada*, is highly effective in counteracting scorpion venom and is explained in the *Keedaloothadi Pratishedha Adhyaya* of *Ashtanga Hridaya Uttara Sthana* [3].

This review article examines the composition, method of preparation, and therapeutic efficacy of *Hinguvadi Agada*, with a focus on its *Rasapanchaka* properties.

MATERIALS AND MEHOD

Review of literature

Name of the formulation: *Hinguvadi agada*

The classical reference for this *Yoga* is found in the *Keedaloothadi Pratishedha adhyaya* of *Ashtanga Hridaya Uttarasthana*. It consists of one mineral ingredient, *Haritala* (orpiment), and two plant-based components, *Hingu* (asafoetida) and *Mathulunga* (*Citrus medica*). The formulation is prepared in *Gutika* (pill) form and is traditionally used both for external application on scorpion stings and as *Anjana* (collyrium) for ocular use.

This same formulation is also mentioned in classical texts like the *Ashtanga Sangraha*[4] and *Prayoga Samuchaya*[5], highlighting its established role in the management of scorpion venom.

Scorpion Poison (*Vrichika Visha*)

Scorpions are arachnids characterized by a segmented body and a venomous gland located in the *telson*, the terminal segment of the tail. This gland produces venom, which is delivered into prey through a specialized stinger. The venom contains neurotoxic compounds that, in certain cases, can cause severe effects in humans, including respiratory distress, cardiac abnormalities, and even death [6].

In Ayurveda, scorpions are classified as *Vata*-dominant creatures, and their venom is categorized into three types based on its intensity- *Manda* (mild), *Madhya* (moderate), and *Maha Visha* (severe). Envenomation from *Maha Visha* is particularly dangerous and is marked by symptoms such as haemorrhage from all orifices, loss of sensory perception, and other life-threatening manifestations, often leading to a high risk of fatality. [7]

According to *Acharya Sushruta*, scorpion venom of both moderate and strong intensity should be treated similarly to snakebite, indicating the critical nature of the envenomation and the urgent need for effective treatment. [8]

Table 1: Ingredients of *Hinguvadi agada* and Botanical name

Drug	Botanical name	Family
Hingu [9]	*Ferula asafoetida* Linn	Apiaceae
Mathulunga [10]	*Citrus medica* Linn	Rutaceae
Haratalam [12]	*Arsenic trisulphide*	

Table 2: Ingredients of *Hinguvadi agada* and its properties

Drug	*Rasa*	*Guna*	*Veerya*	*Vipaka*	*Karma*
Hingu[9]	*Katu*	*Laghu, Snigdha, Teekshna*	*Usna*	*Katu*	*Kaphavatahara, Hridya, Sulahara, Chakshushya, Bhedaniya, Anulomaniya, balya*
Mathulunga[10]	*Amla, Madhura*	*Laghu, Snigdha*	*Usna*	*Amla*	*Vatakaphahara, Hrdya, Deepaniya, Soolaghna*
Haratala[11]	*Katu*	*Guru, Snigdha*	*Usna*	*Katu*	*Sleshma raktha vatha hara, Bhoothaghna, Vishahara, Deepana, Kushtaghna*

METHOD OF PREPARATION

The preparation of *Hinguvadi Agada* begins with the *Sodhana* (purification) of *Haratala* (orpiment) and *Hingu* (asafoetida).

Sodhana* of *Haratala[13]

Haratala is purified by boiling it in a *Dolayantra* (boiling apparatus) with *Kushmanda swarasa* (*Benincasa hispida* juice). This process helps eliminate any impurities, making the *Haratala* suitable for medicinal use.

Sodhana* of *Hingu[14]

Hingu undergoes purification by being placed in a vessel containing *Goghritha* (cow ghee) and then fried under *Mandagni* (mild heat). This gentle process enhances its therapeutic properties and purges any unwanted impurities.

After the *Sodhana* process, the *Sodhitha* (purified) *Hingu* and *Sodhitha Haratala* are taken in equal quantities. They are finely ground into a smooth powder, which is then combined with a sufficient quantity of *Mathulunga swarasa* to form a *Gutika* (pill). The ingredients are pounded together in a *Khalwayantra* (mortar and pestle), ensuring a well-blended and effective formulation. [15]

Analysis

Diagram 1: Analysis of *Rasa* ingredients of *Hinguvadi agada*

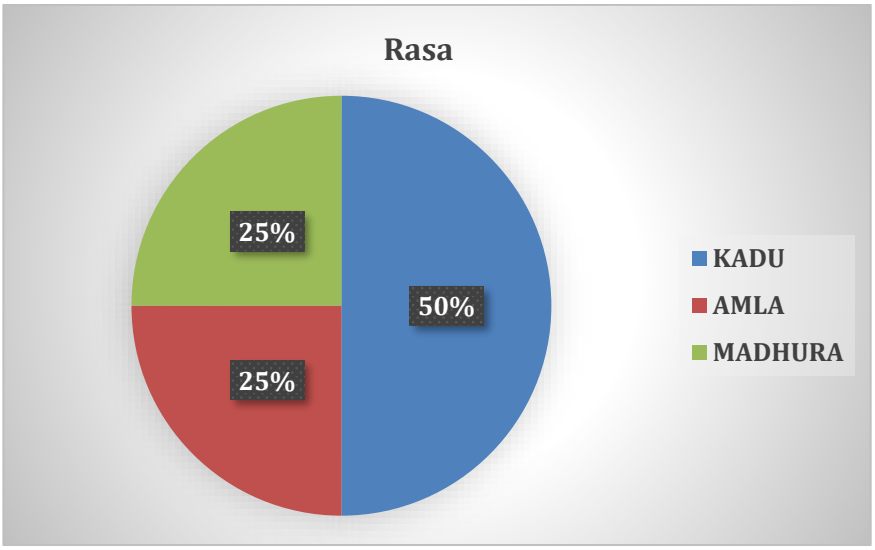


Diagram 2: Analysis of *Guna* of ingredients of *Hinguvadi agada*

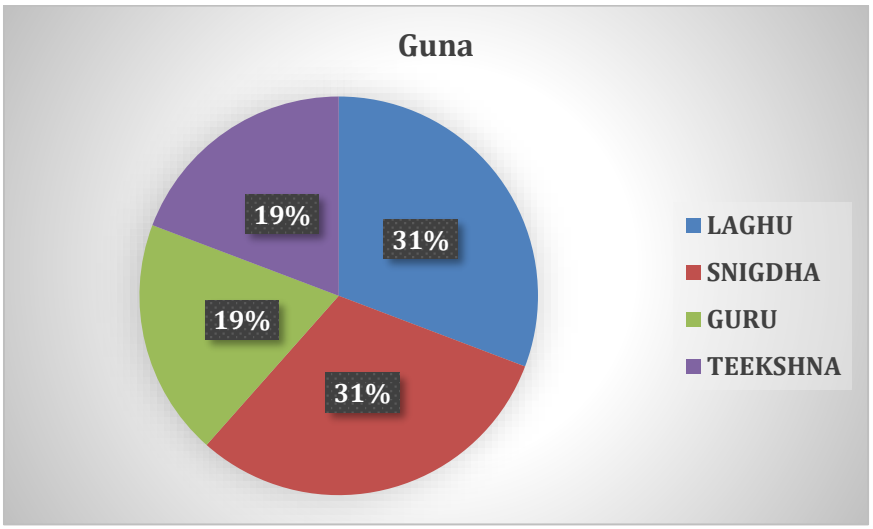


Diagram 3: Analysis of *Veerya* of ingredients of *Hinguvadi agada*

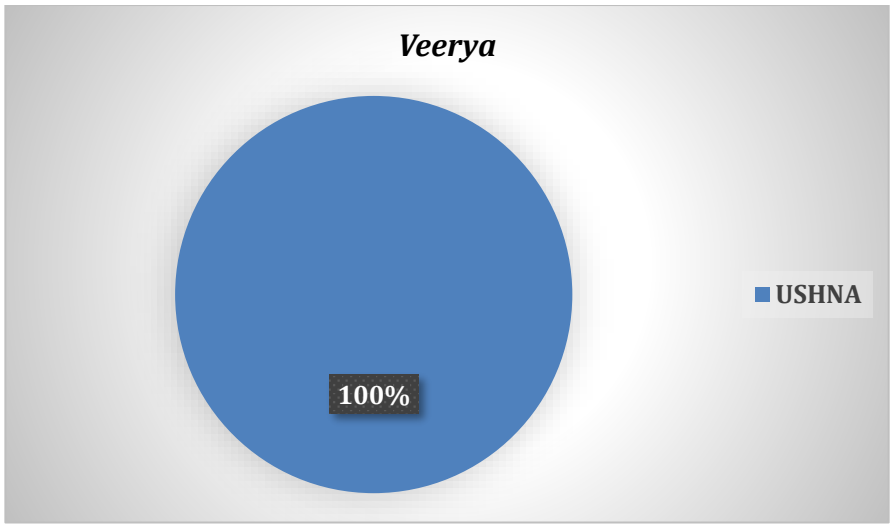
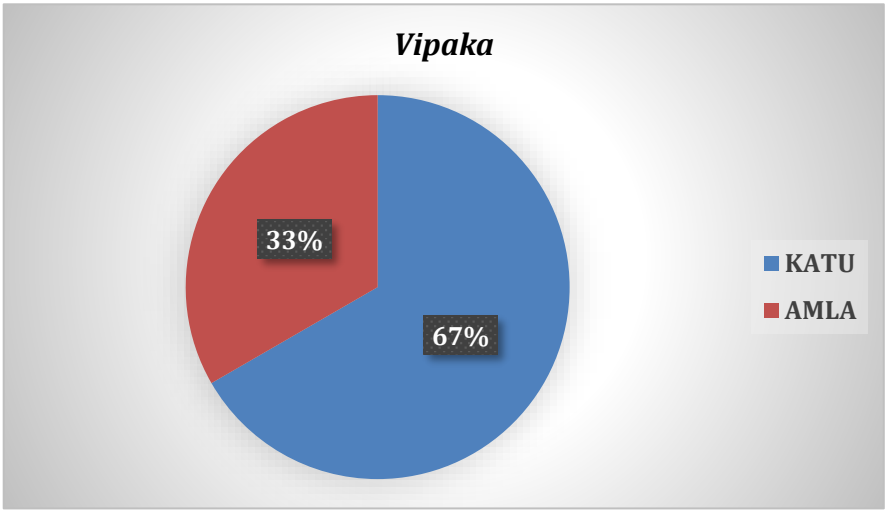


Diagram 4: Analysis of *Vipaka* of ingredients of *Hinguvadi agada*



DISCUSSION

Vrichikavisha is primarily characterized by the predominance of the *Vata dosha*. A distinctive feature of a scorpion sting is the immediate pain at the bite site, which is sharp and intense. Among the ten *Visha gunas* (qualities of poisons), *Vrichikavisha* is most closely associated with the *Teekshna* (sharp) quality. Consequently, the treatment for *Vrichikavisha* involves using substances (*Dravyas*) that possess *Vishaghna* (anti-toxic), *Soolaghna* (pain-relieving), and *Vatahara* (balancing the *Vata* dosha) properties. *Hinguvadi Agada* is a combination of these three therapeutic actions. *Haratala* exhibits *Vishaghna* properties, while *Hingu* (asafoetida) and *Mathulunga* (Citrus medica) are both *Soolaghna* in nature. All three ingredients-*Hingu*, *Haratala*, and *Mathulunga* also possess *Vatasamaka* properties.

Upon analyzing the *Rasapanchakas* of *Hinguvadi Agada*, it is found to predominantly possess *Katu rasa* (pungent taste), *Ushna Veerya* (hot potency), and *Kadu vipaka*. These properties work synergistically to act as *Kledasoshana* (remover of excess moisture), *Srothosodhaka* (purifier of the channels), and *Aamapachana* (metabolizes ama). This combination helps to prevent the inflammatory cascade caused by the neurotoxin in scorpion venom and may reduce prostaglandin production, thereby alleviating the inflammatory response.

The *Soolaghna* action of *Hingu* and *Mathulunga* plays a crucial role in alleviating pain. Both these substances have demonstrated analgesic and antioxidant activities. Additionally, 33% of the formulation is composed of substances with *Laghu guna*, which are beneficial in *Visha Chikitsa* because they are easily absorbed at the cellular level. This facilitates rapid detoxification and helps prevent the deleterious effects of poison.

Regarding the mode of application, the *Lepa* (paste) form can be used in cases of *Mandaveerya Vrichika*. On the other hand, the *Gutikaanjana* form is generally indicated for severe diseases (*Mahabalakararogas*). In its *Gutikaanjana* form, the medicine is finely prepared, which enhances its absorption into the systemic circulation, particularly through the increased vascularization in the conjunctiva. This process supports the reduction of systemic envenomation symptoms and aids in the restoration of consciousness in severe envenomation. And falls under the category of *Teekshnanjana* (sharp collyrium) due to the potent nature of its ingredients. The sharpness (*Teekshnatwa*) of the *Gutikaanjana* induces lacrimation, which helps to clear the *Stanika doshas* from the eyes and surrounding tissues.

Beyond *Vrichikavisha*, *Acharya Vagbhata* also describes the use of *Teekshnanjana* in the treatment of *Darveekara* (Cobra) and *Rajila* (Krait) *Sarpa damsa,* and this envenomation are neurotoxic similar to scorpion. Therefore, the application of *Hinguvadi Agada* can be extended to envenomation caused by these venomous snakes as well, where its *Teekshna* (sharp) and *Vishaghna* (anti-toxic) properties may provide effective therapeutic benefits.

CONCLUSION

Vrichikavisha is effectively treated in Ayurveda, and according to *Acharya Vagbhata*, *Hinguvadi Agada* from the *Ashtanga Hridaya* is the most effective remedy for scorpion envenomation. This simple formulation, consisting of just three ingredients, is known for its ability to address the primary symptom of scorpion stings-pain. When analysed through the principles of *Rasa Panchakas*

and *Karma*, *Hinguvadi Agada* proves to be highly effective in managing both the local and systemic effects of scorpion venom. The formulation is typically applied as a *Lepa* (paste) but can also be used as *Gutikanjana* (collyrium). It works by neutralizing the neurotoxin from the scorpion, thereby alleviating pain, limiting the spread of venom, and supporting the recovery from envenomation.

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***Address for correspondence**
Dr. Monika M
Final year MD scholar,
Department of Agadatantra,
Government Ayurveda College,
Thiruvananthapuram.
Email: monimnair@gmail.com

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